



Sangamon County Historical Society Newsletter
P.O. Box 9744 Springfield, IL 62791-9744 | 217-525-1961 | schoffice@gmail.com
www.sangamonhistory.org | www.sangamonlink.org

Cemetery Walk October 5

"Echoes of Yesteryear: A Walk through Oak Ridge Cemetery" will be held from noon – 3:30 p.m. Sunday, October 5. (The last tour begins at 3:00 p.m.). The free walking tour is sponsored by the Sangamon County Historical Society in cooperation with Oak Ridge Cemetery, 1441 Monument Avenue, Springfield. Seven actors dressed in period costumes will tell the personal stories of individuals buried at Oak Ridge Cemetery who made significant contributions to our community's early history.

Attendees will be transported by bus to the first gravesite, then walk to the others before boarding the bus back to the parking area. The walk is approximately one-half mile.

The event is free and open to the public; however, donations are greatly appreciated.

Parking is available in designated areas and refreshments will be available for purchase.

See more on page 5



Highlights

Grant Recipients
SIX
grants awarded!

New Board elected

September Program
September 16
at
Lincoln Library
Carnegie Room

Cemetery Walk
October 5th

Want to get involved?
Join a committee! See
list on page 8

Programs Return September 16



Tues., Sept. 16, 2025

5:30 pm

Lincoln Library - Carnegie Room

Saving History - One Marble at a Time: Paul Golladay will present the history of military headstones issued to Civil War soldiers, even to Confederate soldiers, and the work of cleaning military headstones. Golladay heads up the volunteers and the work of the not-for-profit Sucker State Preservation Foundation. Many days the group heads out to Oak Ridge Cemetery and other cemeteries to clean, reset and restore military headstones. Hear about the work and where Sucker State originates. Golladay has 21 years in active duty with the Army National Guard and currently is the manager of the officer candidate school. He worked for the National Park Service at Lincoln's Home and was the assistant museum curator for the Illinois State Military Museum.

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Has your contact information changed? Please let us know any changes.

From the President's Desk



LINDA SCHNEIDER

I have always loved history and, as a community actor, when I was approached to be involved as an actor at the Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk in the mid-1990's, I jumped at the chance to combine my two passions. That was my introduction to the Sangamon County Historical Society and I am very proud to say that I have been

involved as an actor and/or planning committee member of the annual Cemetery Walk for every one of the walks, except the very first one. I have portrayed many interesting people over the years and learned so much about Sangamon County history.

We have interesting programs scheduled for our monthly programs this year and I hope that you will join us on Tuesday, September 16 at 5:30 p.m. in the

Carnegie Room at Lincoln Library for a program on Civil War Grave Restoration by Paul Golladay.

We thank you for being a valued member of the Sangamon County Historical Society - as a volunteer organization, we rely on your support to provide free historical programming to the community including our monthly programs and the annual Oak Ridge Cemetery Walk. Also, in this newsletter, is information on grants awarded at our Annual Meeting in June to other historical endeavors in Sangamon County. Thank you again for your support, and we hope to see you at our upcoming events.

Linda

Sangamon County Historical Society 2024-2025 MEMBERSHIP/MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL Form

Mail this form with your check to the Sangamon County Historical Society, P.O. Box 9744, Springfield, IL 62791-9744. Our membership year runs from June 1 to May 31. All memberships cover adults and children 16 and over living at the same address. Be sure to list their full names. Please Print.

Your Full Name _____

Spouse/Significant Other First Name _____

Spouse's maiden name where applicable _____

Your e-mail _____

Your address _____

City, State , Zip _____ Phone _____

Choose Your Level of Membership: ☐ Regular (\$30) ☐ Pioneer (\$100) ☐ Settler (\$250)

☐ Trailblazer (\$500) ☐ Lifetime (\$700 one-time fee) ☐ College/University Student (individual) (\$20)

☐ This is a GIFT (Name of recipient, mailing and e-mail address):

☐ I am adding a donation to the Society in addition to my membership in the amount of \$ _____

Grants Awarded at Annual Meeting

The Sangamon County Historical Society awarded six grants at the annual meeting on June 10th. The grants were presented by committee chair, Scott Pillsbury. *Pictures by Ernie Slottag*

Village of Divernon - Historic Train Depot Restoration Project

The Depot stands as one of the last remaining visages of Divernon's history as a mining town. The Depot serves as a repository of the history of Divernon, housing relics and memorabilia. Grant funds will be used for a portion of the costs to replace exterior siding and repair damage to the exterior.



Above: Rev. Susan Phillips with First Presbyterian Church and Scott Pillsbury - SCHS Grants Chair



Above: Chuck Apagar with Village of Divernon and Scott Pillsbury - SCHS Grants Chair

First Presbyterian Church - Museum Quality Display Cabinetry for History Room

A history room will be created to display important historic items including: Photos of President and Mary Lincoln; a hand-written letter by Mrs. Lincoln regarding her plans to return to Springfield from Washington DC; baptism records of the Lincoln boys; drawings of the sanctuary during Mrs. Lincoln's funeral, and more.

Illinois State Historical Society - It Happened Here! A Guide to Historical Markers throughout Sangamon County

A full-color brochure will be printed to provide information about all historical markers in Sangamon County. This will include information and dates about the 19 markers and a QR code with a link to each site.



Above: Bill Furry, Executive Director of the IL State Historical Society and Scott Pillsbury - SCHS Grants Chair



2025-2026 Officers

President - Linda Schneider

Vice President - Scott Pillsbury

Past President - Cinda Klickna

Treasurer - Sam Sgro

Secretary - Sarah Adams

Directors

Term ending 2026

Ruth Slottag

Term ending 2027

Brian Barstead

Mary Alice Davis

Susan Helm

Kathy Hoffman

Stephanie Martin

Term ending 2028

Lee-Ann Burgener

Dawn Phillips

Ashley Yoggerst



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Winner, Certificate of Excellence, Illinois State Historical Society

You can download back issues of Historico in PDF format by going to our website: www.sangamonhistory.org or www.sangcohis.org.

Send event announcements to: schshistorico@gmail.com

SCHS Mailing Address:

PO Box 9744

Springfield, IL 62791-9744

2025-2026 Officers Elected at Annual Meeting

The former Chapman and Edward Laundry facility, which now houses a coffee shop, restaurant, bar and event space, was the site of **Summer Celebration - Honors and Salutes**.

We celebrated, honored and saluted our outgoing board members, Elaine Hoff and Mary Mucciante; our incoming board, including two new board members Dawn Phillips and Ashley Nippert-Yoggerst; grant recipients; outgoing President Cinda Klickna and incoming President Linda Schneider.

Thank you to everyone who attended and helped celebrate the SCHS!!!

Right: President Linda Schneider's inaugural remarks



Above: President Cinda Klickna with outgoing Board Member Elaine Hoff. Thank you Elaine for your years of service!



Above: President Cinda Klickna with outgoing Board Member Mary Mucciante. Mary, we appreciate your service to the SCHS!!



Left and Below: SCHS Members and Guests



All photos by Ernie Slottag

2025-2026 Officers and Directors

Mary Alice Davis, Chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the 2025-2026 Slate of Officers and Directors, who were unanimously approved. Cinda Klickna hands over the reigns of President to Linda Schneider. Scott Pillsbury will serve as Vice President, Sarah Adams as Secretary and Sam

Sgro as Treasurer. Directors include: Brian Barstead, Lee-Ann Burgener, Mary Alice Davis, Susan Helm, Kathy Hoffmann, Stephanie Martin, Dawn Phillips, Ruth Slottag and Ashley Nippert-Yoggerst.



Mary Alice Davis, Scott Pillsbury, Sarah Adams, Sam Sgro, Susan Helm, Stephanie Martin, Cinda Klickna, Ashley Yoggerst, Linda Schneider, Dawn Phillips, Lee-Ann Burgener and Ruth Slottag.



Above: Mary Alice Davis presents the 2025 Slate of Officers & Directors.

Echos of Yesteryear Cemetery Walk

October 5

at Oak Ridge Cemetery

Costumed re-enactors will portray the following historic figures at the Cemetery Walk:

Johei Okuhara (1876-1919) was an immigrant from Japan. He worked as a photographer, specializing in photographing subjects in front of a Japanese style background. He was close friends with prominent Springfield businessman John Bretz.

Eva Carroll Monroe (1869-1950), founded the Lincoln Colored Home in 1898, the first orphanage for African-American children in Sangamon County. The home housed elderly women as well as children. Monroe worked as its Matron until 1933, when the State of Illinois did not renew its license, forcing it to close.



Amos Duncan (1890-1945) was one of the few African-American police officers in Springfield in the early 20th century. He was a Republican precinct committeeman and entrepreneur, owning the original Dreamland Park, a laundry, several taverns and a movie theater.

Frederick Streckfuss (1852-1924) was a Lutheran minister and professor of Concordia Theological Seminary, which educated Missouri Synod Lutheran ministers in Springfield. He spoke several languages including English, German, Hebrew, Slovak, Lithuanian and Polish, and was able to communicate with coal miners who had immigrated from Eastern European countries.

Adelaide Garden DeFrates (1850-1930) and her husband Manuel were immigrants from the island of Madeira (now Portugal). They worked for the American Hemp Company making rope. Manuel was a Republican precinct committeeman and a leader of the Portuguese Marines marching group.



Edris Mabie (1894-1935) worked in the coal mines like his immigrant father from Wales. When the United Miner Workers laid miners off and cut their wages, Mabie left and organized the Progressive Miners of America.

Many fights resulted from that split. On Easter Sunday of 1935 he was killed in a deadly union war outside a saloon in downtown Springfield.

Alex Karon (1893-1972) immigrated from Greece and became a long-time proprietor of the Sugar Bowl Confectionery at State Street and South Grand. The eatery drew people from all walks of life including state governors like Henry Horner and William Stratton. But teenagers were the heart and soul of the Sugar Bowl's business.



Grants Awarded at Annual Meeting

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul the Apostle – Historical Museum & Library - Glass Door Display case & Bookcases

The Cathedral is planning a historical Museum & Library room with a focus on the history of the Cathedral and its connection to Abraham Lincoln and his marriage to Mary Todd, which was officiated by Reverend Charles Dresser, Rector of the St. Paul Cathedral from 1838-1854, The Museum will feature historical artifacts, Lincoln-related items, and educational resources. It will be open to the public.



Left: Rev. Andrew S. Hook, OCS with The Cathedral Church of St. Paul the Apostle and Scott Pillsbury - SCHS Grants Chair

Pictures by Ernie Slottag

Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association – Digitization of the Fever River Architectural Study of Enos Park

Enos Park was platted in 1833 and by the early 20th century nearly all Enos Park was developed and the neighborhood established itself with many movers and shakers of Springfield residing within its boundaries. The Fever Study was a historical record of all buildings within the neighborhood as of 1997. Digitized copies will be available at no cost & will protect the safety of this archival knowledge for historians, past and future residents and serve as a Springfield history resource.

Right: Lauren Baker with Enos Park Neighborhood Improvement Association and Scott Pillsbury - SCHS Grants Chair



Rochester Sesquicentennial Committee - Assembling a trio of scrapbooks

Three scrapbooks will detail the events, projects and programs that were offered to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the village of Rochester, IL (1869-2019) and serve as permanent documentation. Scrapbooks will be housed in the Village offices as a permanent repository for this documentation of the historic celebration. The mission is to celebrate our heritage, expose children and adults to the history, settlement & growth of the community, build on our legacy and create a link for the future.



Above: Carolyn Moore and Ann Rowley with Village of Rochester and Scott Pillsbury - SCHS Grants Chair

November Program

Save the date for the November program which will be held on November 18, 2025 at 5:30 pm at Lincoln Library in the Carnegie Room.

Adriana Schroeder, Command Historian of the Illinois National Guard, will share the beginnings of the National Guard and how Camp Lincoln came about. Ms. Schroeder collects, archives and catalogues the missions, exercises, personnel and events of both the Illinois Army and Air National Guard.

Calendar

A Heads Up Guide to Area History Events

Save the Date!



Send announcements, information, photos and illustrations to schshistorico@gmail.com.



Sept. 6: *Artillery Through Time at Illinois State Military Museum.* 10am to 4pm. Free to attend; donations appreciated.

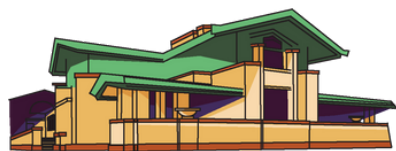
Sept. 7: *Voices of the Village - History of Lincoln's New Salem* (1830's to today). 1pm; doors open at 12:30pm. Free to attend.



Sept. 20: *Clayville Fall Festival.* 9am to 4pm. Enjoy Civil War re-enactors, live music, children's activities, craft and food vendors and more. Free to attend; donations appreciated.



Sept. 27: *Brice's Cross Roads National Battlefield Then & Now* at Illinois State Military Museum. 2pm. Presentation on the campaign and battle that occurred June 10, 1864. Followed by plans regarding what the Foundation is doing to preserve and interpret the battlefield today.



Dana-Thomas House Foundation

Oct. 1: *Bourbon Done WRIGHT.* 5:30 pm to 8pm.

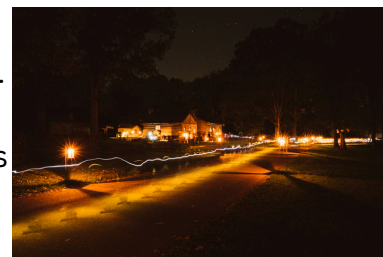
Motorheads

MotorDome

Experience the sweet smooth flavors of bourbon (Frank Lloyd Wright's favorite drink) while learning more about it. Sample fine foods, enjoy music and a live and silent auction. Not a bourbon drinker? Tickets for dinner only are also available (includes everything except bourbon).

Oct. 3, 10 & 17: *New Salem Candlelight Walk.*

5pm to 7:30 pm. The historic village pathways will be lined with candle lanterns; actors



in period clothing will be in may of the log homes and shops to talk about life in the original village and 19th century Illinois. Suggested donation.

October 5

Echos of Yesteryear - A Walk Through Oak Ridge Cemetery.

12pm to 3:30pm.

Free to attend. Donations appreciated.

Sangamon County Historical Society
P.O. Box 9744,
Springfield, IL 62791-9744
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Springfield, Illinois



PROGRAMS

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
5:30 PM AT LINCOLN LIBRARY

September 16
Civil War Grave Restoration

November 18
Illinois National Guard

January 20
Poor Farm

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

ECHOS OF YESTERYEAR CEMETERY WALK

Sunday, October 5
12:00 pm to 3:30 pm
Oak Ridge Cemetery
1441 Monument Ave.
Springfield, IL

FREE & Open to the Public



Want to get involved?

Consider joining a committee.
It's a great way to give back
while preserving and promoting
Sangamon County history.

Committees:

Events
Membership
Grants
Cemetery Walk
Finance